

Application No.: 09/960,306

Docket No.: 20272-00688-US

REMARKS

Bearing in mind the comments of the Official Action and the amendments and remarks below, the application is believed to be in condition for allowance. An early indication of the same would be appreciated.

Claims 1-5, and 11-13 remain pending in this application. Claims 1 and 5 are independent. Claims 1 and 5 have been amended for clarity, and no claims have been cancelled or added by this amendment.

Withdrawal of the objection to the drawing Figures 1-3 is requested. Responsive to the Examiner's objection, marked-up copies of Figures 1-3 have been submitted in a concurrently-filed Transmittal of Drawing Correction, enclosed herewith, to identify Figures 1-3 as being "conventional". Formal drawings will be submitted after receipt of the Notice of Allowability.

Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-5 and 11-13 under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Bonhomme (US 3,107,966) is requested.

Applicant notes that anticipation requires the disclosure, in a prior art reference, of each and every limitation as set forth in the claims.¹ There must be no difference between the claimed invention and reference disclosure for an anticipation rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102.² To properly anticipate a claim, the reference must teach every element of the claim.³ "A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference".⁴ "The identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the ...claim."⁵ In determining anticipation, no claim limitation may be ignored.⁶

Although Applicant disagrees with the Examiner's expansive interpretation of the applied art, in the interest of expediting prosecution, independent claims 1 and 5 have been amended for

¹ *Titanium Metals Corp. v. Banner*, 227 USPQ 773 (Fed. Cir. 1985).

² *Scripps Clinic and Research Foundation v. Genentech, Inc.*, 18 USPQ2d 1001 (Fed. Cir. 1991).

³ See MPEP § 2131.

⁴ *Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of Calif.*, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987).

⁵ *Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co.*, 9 USPQ2d 1913, 1920 (Fed. Cir. 1989).

⁶ *Pac-Tex, Inc. v. Amerace Corp.*, 14 USPQ2d 187 (Fed. Cir. 1990).

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clarity, to recite that the spacing between wires in a wire group is less than the spacing between groups, and that the area or space between the wired pairs is free of any wires.

In particular, the applied art does not disclose an electrical socket which includes, among other features, "...the spacing between each adjacent pair of groups is free of any wires", as recited in independent claim 1, as amended.

Further, the applied art does not disclose electrical socket which includes, among other features, "...a spacing between adjacent wires in each of the first and second pairs of wires is less than the spacing between each of the three pairs of wires, and wherein the spacing between any adjacent pair of wires is free of any wires", as recited in independent claim 5, as amended.

Bonhomme, as indicated in the background section of the present specification, demonstrates conventional arrangements where the contact wires of this type of hyperboloid socket contact are arranged equally-spaced around the circumference of the socket. The applied art does not disclose the novel and non-obvious features recited in independent claims 1 and 5, as amended.

Accordingly, as the applied art does not disclose all of the recited features, withdrawal of the anticipation rejection and allowance of independent claims 1 and 5 are requested. Further, as dependent claims 2-4 and 11-14 variously and ultimately depend from independent claim 1, these claims are submitted as being allowable at least on that basis, without further recourse to the additional features recited therein.

Allowance of pending claims 1-4 and 11-14 is believed to be in order, and is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes that an interview would serve to resolve any remaining issues in this application, the undersigned attorney is available at the telephone number listed below.

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Although no fees are believed to be due with this amendment, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account 22-0185, under reference 20272-00688.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosures: Claims after amendment
Transmittal of Drawing
Correction Request

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Claims after AmendmentIN THE CLAIMS:Please amend claims 1 and 5 as follows:1. (Amended) An electrical socket comprising:

a retaining structure and a plurality of resilient wires extending along the socket in a hyperboloid arrangement ~~and suitably~~ exposed for contact with a male contact member inserted within the socket,

wherein said wires are arranged in groups of at least two wires each, and

wherein ~~the~~ a spacing of said wires in each group is closer than ~~that of~~ a spacing between each adjacent pair of said groups from one another, and

wherein the spacing between each adjacent pair of groups is free of any wires.

5. (Amended) An electrical socket comprising:

a first support member at one end of the socket;

a second support member at an opposite end; a first pair of resilient contact wires extending along the socket at an angle to ~~its~~ an axis of the socket; said

wherein corresponding wires being ~~are~~ attached with ~~to~~ to said first and second support members at opposite ends;

a second pair of resilient contact wires extending along the socket at an angle to ~~its~~ the axis;

said second pair of wires being spaced around the socket from said first pair and being attached with said first and second support members at opposite ends; and

a third pair of resilient contact wires extending along the socket at an angle to ~~its~~ the axis;

said third pair of wires being spaced around the socket from said first and second

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pairs and being attached with said first and second support members at opposite ends such that the three pairs of wires make a hyperboloid arrangement and are suitably exposed for contact with a male contact member inserted within the socket.

wherein a spacing between adjacent wires in each of the first and second pairs of wires is less than a spacing between each of the three pairs of wires, and

wherein the spacing between any adjacent pair of wires is free of any wires.